

NPIC/D-166-62
24 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Assistant Chief of Staff, Plans,
Policies and Programs, DIA

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SUBJECT:

Comments on Possible Transfer of
Service Elements of NPIC to DIA

1. Reference is made to my memorandum to you, subject as above, dated 12 September 1962 (NPIC/D-154-62).

2. Since preparation of subject reference, there have been some developments which affect the basic problem. The Office of the Director, NPIC, prepared and distributed on 12 September 1962 a draft of a proposed reorganization plan for NPIC. [redacted] has a copy of this plan.) One of the major features of the plan is that it provides for consolidation of all PI's in a Photo Analysis Division, instead of following the current organization in which PI's are kept in departmental pools and utilized on an ad hoc basis for execution of substantive work.

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3. The three military services have given us informal comments concerning their reactions to the proposed plan. While these comments are not official, in general they indicate that there may be considerable Service resistance to the plan. Their major objections are the following:

a. It would be difficult to provide for Service administrative support of PI's who are working in a slot on the NPIC T/O. This presumably would hamper Service administration of the PI's and more important, they feel that they would have difficulty promoting PI's to the grades visualized in the NPIC T/O. This might lead to domination of supervisory slots by CIA personnel who presumably could be promoted with less difficulty.

b. They feel that this would sever current support to the departmental service organizations, which is now accomplished in part by having the same PI who works on national projects available occasionally for departmental work, including briefings for key departmental personnel.

c. They feel that the work at NPIC would no longer be truly joint since each service would not have an opportunity to review the substantive work and "sign off" prior to publication; hence there would be no military service seals on NPIC products.

4. There is some merit to each of the above stated objections; however, it is my personal belief that the gains in increased operating efficiency at NPIC would far offset the potential difficulties. With respect to the specific objections:

a. The personnel problem is the most serious one and admittedly it may be somewhat difficult to work out. However, I believe it can be overcome in part by providing appropriate clearances to key high level civilian personnel managers and Civil Service Commission personnel so as to obtain their support for appropriate grade levels. It also appears that it would be much simpler to consolidate PI's if all of the PI's belonged to DIA. Their status and promotion prospects would then be more nearly equivalent to CIA. Furthermore, with only one holding agency it would be simpler to take whatever action is necessary to place the plan in effect.

b. With respect to item b above, I believe that better support actually can be provided to the departments under a consolidation plan. Admittedly the Services will not have priority call on their PI's, but certainly the NPIC could arrange to respond to their requirements.

c. With respect to item c above, I do not think review by the Services is critical. There is disagreement on less than five percent of our projects. Furthermore, while the senior military personnel in each detachment now provide the substantive review, as a practical matter I do not believe that their review is as effective as the review through normal line channels that would be established within the consolidated PI division.

5. In summary, events of the past two weeks have convinced me that the NPIC operation would be greatly improved by having DIA take over the Service detachments. If we stay with our present

organization it would facilitate coordination; if we go to the new organization, which I hope we do, such a change would be facilitated if DIA controlled DOD PI's. The resistance from the Services may be such that it is not feasible to modify the current organization as long as the individual services control their own PIs.

6. The views above are my own personal views, as the senior DOD representative at the NPIC. The Director of NPIC prefers not to state his views at this time inasmuch as he feels that the way DOD organizes internally to support activities here is a matter for DOD to decide and upon which it is not appropriate for him to comment.


Deputy Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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0 - Addressee
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NPIC/OD:  (24 Sep 62)

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